

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 26-35 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-25 and 36-44 are withdrawn following a restriction requirement.

Claim 26 is allowable in its present form. By the foregoing amendment, claim 29 has been amended to include features of allowable claim 30. Although all features of claim 30 have not been incorporated in claim 29, this claim is considered allowable at least for reasons noted by the Examiner. For example, independent claim 29 recites, among other features, a softening of the hot melt adhesive of the backed hot melt adhesive sheet prior to the sheet contacting the spine surface. Such a feature is neither taught nor suggested by the documents relied upon by the Examiner in the Office Action.

In numbered paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 26-29 and 34-35 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,024,525 (Yamanaka) in view of Patent Publication No. 2001/0019691 (Boss). In numbered paragraph 4 of the Office Action, dependent claims 32-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the Yamanaka and Boss patents in further combination with U.S. Patent Publication 2002/00664437 (Kuramoto et al). These rejections are respectfully traversed, as the Yamanaka, Boss and Kuramoto patents, considered individually, or in the various combinations relied upon by the Examiner, fail to teach or suggest Applicant's invention as set forth in independent claims 26 and 29.

As acknowledged by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, "Yamanaka is silent as to including within the clamping jaws (e.g., between the clamping body

and press) an active cooling member." (Office action page 3, lines 9-10). On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that "Boss teaches including the actively cooled heat sink within the clamping jaw allows rapid heating and cooling of the assembly of plural sheets and clamping body (Paragraph 17)." (Office Action, page 4, lines 2-4). On page 4, the Examiner also asserts that "Regarding the limitation of removing heat to below the glass transition temperature ... it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to experimentally determine the amount of heat removed as a function of the dimensional stability of the book-like structure as doing so would have required nothing more than ordinary skill and routine experimentation." (Office Action, page 4, lines 5-11).

The foregoing asserts are respectfully traversed. The Yamanaka patent is cited by the Examiner as including a pair of translating clamping jaws comprising a member 730 of Figure 1 and side heaters 702/703 of Figure 1. As acknowledged by the Examiner, the clamping jaws do not include an active cooling member.

There is no teaching or suggestion provided by either the Yamanaka patent or the Boss patent as to how the relatively large thermal mass of heat sink 30 disclosed in the Boss patent, and relied upon by the Examiner, would have been integrated into the shift member 730 and/or side heaters 702/703 of the Yamanaka patent. As such, there would have been no motivation or suggestion to have combined these documents in the manner relied upon by the Examiner to arrive at Applicant's claimed invention as set forth in independent claims 26 and 29.

In addition, neither of these patents teach or suggest any structure or methodology for actively withdrawing heat from a backed hot melt adhesive sheet to

bring the temperature of the hot melt adhesive of the backed hot melt adhesive sheet to below a glass transition temperature of hot melt adhesive (Applicant's claim 26).

As recognized by the Examiner, the Yamanaka patent does not even disclose the active withdraw of heat from a backed hot melt adhesive sheet, and therefore does not disclose any parameters for the amount of heat which should be actively withdrawn. Because the Boss patent fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Yamanaka patent with regard to the parameters for the active withdraw of heat from a backed hot melt adhesive sheet, claim 26 is allowable.

Claim 29 is allowable as neither of the patents relied upon by the Examiner teach or suggest, among other features, how their various features would have been combined to arrive at any structure or methodology for absorbing heat from the hot melt adhesive of a backed adhesive sheet into at least a portion of a clamping jaw. The Kuramoto patent fails to overcome deficiencies of the Yamanaka and Boss patents, such that claims 26 and 29 are allowable.

In addition, claim 29 includes features of allowable claim 30, rendering it further allowable over documents relied upon by the Examiner. None of the documents relied upon by the Examiner teach or suggest softening a hot melt adhesive of a backed hot melt adhesive sheet prior to the sheet contacting a spine surface. As such, claim 29 is allowable.

Because claims 26 and 29 are allowable, all claims which depend therefrom are also allowable.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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